

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SUVA 01345 030423Z

66

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 NASA-02 HEW-06 USIA-15 /037 W

----- 101613

P 022055Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5592

UNCLAS SUVA 1345

FOR CU/EA COOPER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC FJ

SUBJ: SATELLITE PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH PACIFIC (USP)

1. RICHARD MOORE, NASA MISSION OPERATIONS DIRECTOR FOR ATS-1,3, 5, 6 HAS INFORMED USP THROUGH GILDA BENSTEAD OF POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF ATS-6 SATELLITE FOR USP EXTENSION SERVICE PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO MOORE, SATELLITE IS LIKELY TO BE PLACED IN POSITION OVER GUAM AND WOULD BE IN POSITION TO COVER ALL EXISTING GROUND TERMINALS OF USP SYSTEM. MOORE HAS SOLICITED FROM BENSTEAD, ON VERY INFORMAL BASIS, PROPOSALS FOR USP USE OF ATS-6.

2. IF THIS COMES ABOUT, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT USP SYSTEM WOULD HAVE TO BE UPGRADED CONSIDERABLY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ATS-6 EQUIPMENT. IT WOULD MEAN CHANGEOVER FROM AUDIO ONLY OF ATS-1 TO VIDEO/ONE WAY/TWO WAY OF ATS-6. EXISTING USP EQUIPMENT COULD STILL BE USED IF ATS-1 SYSTEM CONTINUES IN EXISTENCE, BUT ATS-6 WILL REQUIRE MUCH MORE SOPHISTICATED AND EXPENSIVE GROUND TERMINALS. WORD HAS FILTERED TO USP THAT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY FIFTY AVAILABLE GROUND TERMINALS IN STORAGE AT DEPT OF HEW, SOME BELONGING TO ALASKA GOVERNMENT, OTHERS TO HEW, AND THAT THIS SUPPLY MIGHT BE TAPPED FOR USP USE.

3. AVAILABILITY OF ATS-6 WOULD SOLVE SOME EXISTING PROBLEMS BUT WILL CREATE OTHERS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT WOULD GUARANTEE CONTINUATION OF HIGHLY IMPORTANT SATELLITE NETWORK
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SUVA 01345 030423Z

LINKING MAIN CAMPUS WITH USP EXTENSION CENTERS BEYOND THE

EXPECTED DEMISE OF ATS-1. IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE USP WITH THE ADDED POTENTIAL OF VIDEO FOR LECTURE COURSES AND TUTORIALS, AND WILL EFFECTIVELY MULTIPLY THE MANY USES OF THE SYSTEM.

4. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DRAWBACKS, HOWEVER, SOME EASILY OVERCOME, OTHERS MORE DIFFICULT TO ANSWER. OPERATIONAL CONTROL OVER ATS-6 IN THE FIELD IS CRUCIAL POINT, AND USP UNDERSTANDABLY HOPES THAT CONTROL WILL BE LOCATED IN SUVA. USP IS UNAWARE OF ANY APPROACHES MADE TO OTHER USERS OF ATS-1, INCLUDING PEACESAT SYSTEM, AND NEEDS OF THESE OTHER USERS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. THE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO LINK INTO ATS-6 WILL BE MORE SOPHISTICATED, MORE EXPENSIVE, AND CONSEQUENTLY MORE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN IN THE FIELD. THE VIDEO OUTPUT WILL REQUIRE TELEVISION MONITORS AT EACH TERMINAL - A FEW TECHNICAL DETAILS, SUCH AS COMPATIBILITY WITH JAPANESE AND EUROPEAN VIDEO EQUIPMENT VERSUS US MODELS MUST BE IRONED OUT.

5. THERE IS NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, DESPITE THE DRAWBACKS, THAT USP IS ANXIOUS TO PURSUE THE ATS-6 OFFER. BOTH VICE CHANCELLOR MARAJ AND EXTENSION SERVICE DIRECTOR MCMECHAN HAVE INDICATED TO US THEIR INTEREST IN MOVING AHEAD WITH ATS-6 PLANS. MARAJ SAID THAT MAKING ATS-6 AVAILABLE TO USP COULD BE THE BEST GIFT FROM THE USG IN 1977 TO MARK USP'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY.

6. EMBASSY FULLY SUPPORTS USP PLANS TO PROCEED WITH ATS-6 OFFER, RECOGNIZING THAT EVERYTHING STILL IS AT PRELIMINARY STAGE OF PLANNING. USP IS KEEPING US INFORMED OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH MOORE AND OTHER NASA OFFICIALS ON THE SUBJECT. WOULD APPRECIATE CU/EA VERIFY SUBSTANCE OF THIS CABLE WITH MOORE AND DETERMINE IF WE CAN ASSIST IN ANY WAY.
FLANEGIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SUVA01345
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760447-0431
From: SUVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761277/aaaacowm.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SATELLITE PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH PACIFIC (USP)
TAGS: OEXC, FJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006